



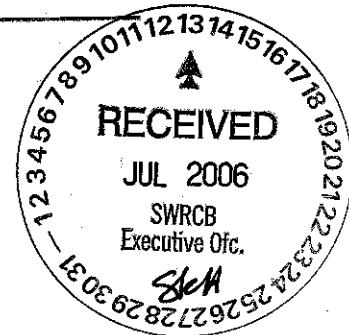
**SIERRA
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**Sierra Club
Mendocino Group
PO Box 2330
Fort Bragg, CA 95437**

7/19/06 BdMtg Item 5
Big River/Salmon Creek
Deadline: 7/14/06 5pm

July 13, 2006

Ms. Tam M. Doduc
Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



SRF Loan Number C-06-6090-110/Big River and Salmon Creek Conservation Project

Dear Ms. Doduc,

I understand that on July 19th the State Water Board will consider a State Revolving Fund loan to The Conservation Fund to assist with the purchase of approximately 16,400 acres of forestland in the Big River and Salmon Creek watersheds in Mendocino County. I am writing on behalf of the Mendocino Group of the Sierra Club to express our enthusiastic support for the use of Revolving Fund monies for this project.

A number of our members are residents of these two watersheds. All of us have been excited about this innovative and proactive approach to achieving important water quality protection and enhancement goals identified in a number of State plans and policies relating to water quality and other beneficial uses, including the Board's Nonpoint Source Program Strategy and Implementation Plan, 1998 – 2013, and Department of Fish and Game's Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon.

Specifically, water quality protection and enhancement objectives will be achieved by permanently protecting the properties from subdivision and conversion to non-forest uses and by implementing sustainable forest practices and silvicultural management measures identified in the Implementation Plan. Successful implementation of these measures will also achieve important state objectives related to recovery of coho salmon and steelhead trout.

The coastal forests of Mendocino County provide a wide array of irreplaceable benefits for all Californians. However, the increasing pace of residential and agricultural development of forestland throughout the region presents a serious threat to the future integrity of these important coastal ecosystems and the biological, scenic, economic and recreational benefits they provide for residents and visitors alike.

By funding the proposed Big River/Salmon Creek purchase, the Water Board can play a leading role in securing a sustainable future for the coastal forests of Mendocino County. I urge you to seize this opportunity and approve the proposed loan for the acquisition of the Big River and Salmon Creek properties. Thank you very much.



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Sincerely,

Linda Perkins
Chair
Mendocino Group, Sierra Club